

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
FIRE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
JANUARY 2001**

OFFICE OF THE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

Fire and Rescue Commission Office

At its January 11, 2001 meeting, the Fire and Rescue Commission discussed and acted upon the following items:

- The transfer of a support vehicle to the County Department of Information Systems and Telecommunications (DIST) – APPROVED
- Chevy Chase Fire Department requests to reprogram Senator Amoss funds and to spend accrued interest – APPROVED
- Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department graphics scheme for new Medic 309 – APPROVED
- Gaithersburg-Washington Grove Volunteer Fire Department request to retain a support vehicle – APPROVED with conditions
- The *Integrated Emergency Command Structure* regulation – APPROVED for publication in the County Register
- The *Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct* regulation – ADOPTED to be forwarded via the County Executive to the County Council for final action

Research and Planning

- No Report

Emergency Management

- Animals in Disaster class was held on January 30th with 39 registrants attending.
- Attended January 6th meeting with Captain Wayne Fryer, Montgomery County Police Animal Services Section; Anne Culver, Director of Disaster Services, Humane Society of United States, and staff; and Ginny Hogan, Red Cross Disaster Services. New procedures were recommended for activating the County Animal Services and volunteer Humane Society animal rescue resources to apartment fires, as well as major or severe weather events.

- “Communications During Disaster” class was held on January 5th for continuing education of officers. The class included a demonstration of equipment used for interoperability of radios, updates on the planning for the new Emergency Communications Center/ Emergency Operations Center (ECC/EOC), presentations on paging procedures, and other communications updates. Requests have been received to hold this class annually, which would be change from its every other year delivery.
- Kathleen Henning attended a federal pilot class, “intermediate Incident Command System”, in Hagerstown, Maryland along with representatives from Police, Sheriff and Red Cross agencies, private defense contractors, and state agency supervisors. Class participants worked through response and planning for major community events, such as walk-a-thons and battle re-enactments. Unplanned events, such as terrorist attacks, floods, and hazardous materials incidents, were also part of the class session.
- Recommendations were received from Corporate Response Group for improving the county’s response to Bioterrorism. The contractor’s recommendations will be discussed at the February 14th Emergency Management Group (EMG) meeting.

Community Education Safety Section

- “After the Fire” outreach efforts
 - Assisted FS 08 A Shift, FS 12 and Engine 242 A Shift, Ambulance 169 and Truck 12 C Shift, FS 03 A Shift, and members of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department in visiting 150 –175 homes and making contact with 300 – 500 people.
 - Fire Fighter/Rescuer Porter is developing an “After the Fire’ booklet to assist citizens who experience fire in their homes. Lieutenant Garcia will be translating the Spanish version of the booklet.
 - Continued work on the development of an “After the Fire” diskette for distribution to Operations Bureau personnel.
- Community Outreach Activities
 - FS 33 C Shift presented a program for the St. James School.
 - FS 08 C Shift conducted a safety lecture and tour to a home school group.
 - FS 08 A Shift, FS 16 B Shift, FS 23 A Shift, FS 24 A Shift, FS 29 B Shift, and FS 31 A Shift performed a total of 12 home inspections.
 - Lieutenant Dement and Lieutenant Harrison attended the Weller Road Elementary School Career Day.

- Master Fire Fighter Stokes presented a Fire Safety talk to the Parkside Condo group Responded to 65 citizen, 28 fire department, and 31 “other” (media or governmental agency) inquiries.
- Presented a Fire Safety lecture for the Rockville Kiwanis Club.
- Responded to 124 inquires (65 citizen, 21 fire department, 31 media or governmental agency).
- Scheduled a number of community education events and classes.
- Hillandale House Explosion
 - Conducted radio and television interviews and responded to all media inquiries
 - Initiated, coordinated and conducted the Hillandale Community Outreach meeting with significant involvement of Deputy Chief Allwang, District Chief Geraci, and District Chief Lohr. 150 area residents, as well as media representatives attended the meeting.
- Meetings and Conferences
 - Attended the “Change in the Fire Service” symposium in Phoenix, Arizona.
 - Attended Community Safety Education Steering Committee meetings.
 - Attended SafeKids Conference in Washington, DC
 - Attended Pedestrian Safety Blue Ribbon Panel meeting.
 - Met with “Inside MCFRS” crew to discuss program’s future direction.
- Operation Extinguish
 - Coordinated class and resolved program issues.
 - Met with the firm that provides counseling services for Operation Extinguish.

Corporate Development Services

Automation Section

- Acquired and installed AOL Internet accounts for all Operations Bureau District Chief’s offices.
- Arranged Internet and Microsoft training for 10 MCFRS users.

- Continued efforts towards upgrading the Scheduling Office database programs.
- Prepared laptop computers for use by the Operations Bureau District Chiefs and delivered the computers to the Operations Bureau Chief for distribution.
- Procured and configured a Ricochet wireless modem for use by the EMS Captains, who will field test this equipment. Based on the results of this field test, additional wireless modems may be procured for use in other MCFRS units.
- Responded to over 130 requests for hardware and software assistance from the various components of the MCFRS.
- Responded to 8 requests for statistical data and information from various components of the MCFRS and the public.
- Worked with the Department of Information Systems and Telecommunications (DIST), the Public Safety Training Academy, and a vendor to test the *MUSTER* program on the DFRS volume of the county Enterprise server. *MUSTER* is a computer-based EMS training program that allows students and instructors to interact on disasters.

Fleet and Facilities Section

- Fleet Activities:
 - Continued contract management efforts for the acquisition of replacement brush trucks and EMS units.
 - Continued efforts towards the outfitting of new DFRS staff vehicles.
 - Continued project oversight activities on the refurbishment of stock # 1862020, a 1986 Seagrave pumper.
 - Performed various contract management duties associated with the performance of the Vehicle Maintenance Records Management Study.
 - Received and finalized pumper specifications that were prepared by the Apparatus Specifications Committee.
 - Received notice that stock # 1862004, a 1986 Seagrave pumper, had been repaired, equipped with a new hose body, and returned to the Hyattstown Volunteer Fire Department.
- Facilities Activities
 - Attended site meeting for the Sandy Spring Fire Station 4 construction project.
 - Continued participation in the PS2000 project relating to on-board equipment and fire station.

- Performed project management duties for the Takoma Park Fire Station 2 replacement project.
- Represented the MCFRS in a presentation to the Takoma Park City Council that resulted in a City Council resolution that supported a replacement Fire Station 2 at the current fire station site, including the acquisition of two adjacent properties.
- Represented the MCFRS in discussions with the Historic Preservation Commission that resulted in that group's support for the acquisition of two properties adjacent to Fire Station 2.

Property Section

- Continued discussions with Arch Wireless to resolve alphanumeric pager problems.
- Met with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, Resources Management Section, on a variety of warehousing and protective clothing issues.
- Met with Montgomery County Police Department personnel to discuss possible approaches to enhance our joint contracting efforts.
- Processed 209 property transactions in January.
- Toured protective gear cleaning facility and reviewed options to our current cleaning program with vendor.
- Visited the site for the new Emergency Communications Center and coordinated adding this location to the MCFRS courier route.
- Worked with Bureau of Program Support Services staff in preparation for the coordinated CPAT/Property Section DFRS applicant/recruit process to be held on February 3rd.

DIVISION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

- Apparatus Issues:
 - Met with the Fire Administrator, Chief, DFRS, and MCFRS Fleet Manager to discuss apparatus issues.
 - Met with Chief Seavey, Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, to resolve vehicle graphic design issues.

- Met with the MCFRS Policy Development Program Manager and the Administrative Services Coordinator to provide input to the draft non-tax funded acquisition of apparatus policy.
- Met with the Chief and President of the Bethesda Fire Department to discuss issues surrounding the replacement of Truck 6.
- Met with Chief Strock and President Hartung of the Hillandale Volunteer Fire Department to discuss apparatus/EMS unit replacement schedules.
- Committee Participation:
 - Apparatus Specifications Committee
 - Chamber of Commerce Awards Committee
 - Chiefs Committee
 - Human Resources Safety and Training Committee
 - Pollution Prevention Committee
 - Post Incident Analysis Work Group
- Monthly Meetings Attendance:
 - Fire Board
 - Fire and Rescue Association
 - Fire and Rescue Commission
- Personnel Issues:
 - Attended a meeting with the Fire Administrator, DFRS Chief, Program Support Bureau Chief, Training District Chief and Montgomery County Public Schools representatives regarding student personnel issues.
 - Mediated personal, personnel and/or sensitive issues with various Local Fire and Rescue Departments.
- Other Activities
 - Attended the Fire and Rescue Commission retreat
 - Chaired LEPC meeting for the Fire Administrator
 - Met with Director of Emergency Services from Ocean City, Maryland, regarding operational problems in Emergency Services
 - Met with County's State liaison representatives

DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

BUREAU OF OPERATIONS

Administration

No Report

Safety Section

No Report

Specialty Teams

Collapse Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue

No Report

Swiftwater Rescue Team

- Captain Steve Suddath had been appointed Assistant Team Leader
- 34 water rescues were made by the team in Calendar Year 2000

BUREAU OF LIFE SAFETY SERVICES

Administration

No Report

Fire Code Enforcement

No Report

Fire and Explosive Investigations

- Cresthaven Drive Incident
 - On January 1st a house at 1117 Cresthaven Drive in Hillandale exploded and caught on fire.
 - Both occupants of the dwelling were killed as a result of smoke inhalation.
 - MCFRS Investigators spent 15 hours on the scene along with ATF and Montgomery County Police investigators.
 - The incident, which is still under investigation, is estimated to have caused \$1,160,000 in total damage.
- Other Incidents
 - Fire and Explosive Investigators investigated 19 accidental fires and 11 criminal incidents in January.
 - The Bomb Squad responded to a total of 3 incidents of suspicious packages.
 - The total estimated dollar loss for accidental fires was \$1,841,000 (not including the Hillandale house explosion) and \$157,000 for criminal incidents.
- Training
 - Lieutenant Kevin Frazier graduated from the Montgomery County Police Academy in January after 27 weeks of training. Lieutenant Frazier will use the FM-59 radio designation and will receive his field training from Captain Reda.

- Investigators received training on blast injuries from the Armed Forces Pathology Institute.
- CY 2000 Statistics
 - 756 investigated incidents
 - 175 criminal incidents (23.2% of all investigated incidents)
 - 65 criminal cases closed by arrests (37.2% closure rate and \$577,600 in dollar loss)
 - 94 persons arrested
 - 57 juveniles
 - 37 adults
 - 131 incidents responded to by the Bomb Squad
 - 2424 hours spent receiving and providing training
 - 2207 hours spent conducting origin and cause examinations
 - 2171 hours spent conducting follow up investigations
 - 836 hours spent mitigating explosive incidents

BUREAU OF PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES

Administration

No Report

Communications Section

- Continuing Dispatch Education subject of the month: "Beyond the Basics of ICS"
- F/F P. Corte and F/F P. Dowining have transferred to the Communications Section, Emergency Communications Center (ECC) and have begun the new day work training program. F/F C. Stroup is the lead instructor for this innovative program.
- Congratulations to F/F C. German, whose experience and quick action as a call taker/dispatcher saved the lives of a family overcome from a build up of carbon monoxide in their home. All local television news stations and the local newspapers recognized F/F German live-saving efforts.
- ECC Facts for January 2001:

• 911 calls directed to Fire and Rescue Services (sorted)	= 9,763
• 911 calls handled by Fire and Rescue Services (unsorted)	= 534
• Administrative Calls in/out of ECC	= 20,599

Training Section

- Three EMT-Paramedics (2 career, 1 volunteer) were awarded status in January.

- EMT- Paramedic Class #21, the nighttime class, continues with 20 students (6 career, 14 volunteer).
- EMT-Paramedic Class #22, the daytime class, continues with 14 students (13 career, 1 volunteer).
- 29 members of Recruit Class #18 graduated on January 5th in ceremony held in the Auditorium of the University of Maryland, Shady Grove Center.

Recruitment/CPAT

- No Report

Wellness

- No Report